

**REMARKS**

Initially, in the Office Action dated December 3, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,350 (Miyahara). Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 17, 20-22, and 24-26 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-26 remain pending in the present application.

**Typographical Error in the Claims**

Upon reviewing the claims filed with the Amendment on October 6, 2003, Applicants noted that all of the "≤" signs in the claims printed as "=" because the printer did not recognize the symbol. In the current listing of the claims, all of these symbols have been changed back to "≤", as they were in the application and, therefore, this is not considered an amendment.

**35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Miyahara. Miyahara was discussed in Applicants' previously filed response. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that Miyahara et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, locating areas T<sub>1</sub> -

$T_n$ , areas  $J_1 - J_k$  and areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in a predetermined same arrangement in each area  $G$ ; each of said areas  $G$  includes said areas  $H_1 - H_m$  which have been predetermined in a location so as to be asymmetric in vertical and horizontal directions in the area  $G$  in question; recognizing a plurality of areas  $G$  each consisting of  $P \times Q$  ( $1 \leq P, Q$ ) of the areas  $S$ , said plurality of areas  $G$  being located on said image data, and said recognition being carried out by comparing locations of said detected areas  $H_1 - H_m$  on said image data and locations of predetermined areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in the areas  $S$ ; the detected areas  $H$  are compared with a predetermined location in the areas  $H_1 - H_m$ , said predetermined location being determined in advance such that the areas  $H$  become asymmetric in vertical and horizontal directions in the area  $G$  in question; codes for detecting areas  $H_1 - H_m$  ( $2 \leq m$ ) in which any of bit information 0 and 1 is not embedded, from said plurality of areas  $S$  codes for recognizing a plurality of areas  $G$  each consisting of  $P \times Q$  ( $1 \leq P, Q$ ) of the areas  $S$ . said plurality of areas  $G$  being located on said image data, and said recognition being carried out by comparing locations of said detected areas  $H_1 - H_m$  on said image data and locations of predetermined areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in the areas  $S$ ; a processing part for recognizing a plurality of areas  $G$  each consisting of  $P \times Q$  ( $1 \leq P, Q$ ) of the areas  $S$ , said plurality of areas  $G$  being located on said image data, and said recognition being carried out by comparing locations of said detected areas  $H_1 - H_m$  on said image data and locations of predetermined areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in the areas  $S$ ; codes for locating one or more areas  $T_1 - T_n$ , one or more areas  $J_1 - J_k$ , and one or more areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in a predetermined same arrangement in each area  $G$ ; or said recognition being carried out by comparing locations of said detected areas  $H_1 - H_m$

on said image data and locations of predetermined areas  $H_1 - H_m$  in the areas  $S$ ; and codes for extracting, in each of the plurality of areas  $G$  recognized, information  $p_1 - p_k$  ( $1 \leq k$ ) from areas  $J_1 - J_k$  in which said information  $p_1 - p_k$  ( $1 \leq k$ ) should be embedded, said information  $p_1 - p_k$  specifying an embedding format for embedding said digital watermark information  $b_1 - b_n$  respectively in said areas  $T_1 - T_n$ . These limitations are neither disclosed nor suggested by Miyahara et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Miyahara et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 09/583,952

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 566.38616X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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